

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A preform including a body and a bottom portion, the preform having a multi-layer structure that is continuous through the body and bottom portion, which preform is formed by compression-forming a melt-extruded molten resin mass, the multi-layer structure having layers of an ethylene terephthalate unit-containing polyester resin as inner and outer layers sealing at least one layer of a ~~gas barrier resin or a~~ recycled polyester resin as an intermediate layer, said intermediate layer running continuously through the body and entire bottom portion,

wherein a time is not shorter than 300 seconds before a calorific value of isothermal crystallization of said ~~layer~~ inner and outer layers of the ethylene terephthalate unit-containing polyester resin at 210°C reaches a maximum value.

2. (previously presented): A preform according to claim 1, wherein said polyester resin contains ethylene terephthalate units at a ratio of not smaller than 95 mol%.

3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (withdrawn-currently amended): A method of producing a preform including a body and a bottom portion, the preform having a multi-layer structure that is continuous through the body and bottom portion, which preform is formed by compression-forming a melt-extruded molten resin mass, the multi-layer structure having layers of an ethylene terephthalate unit-containing polyester resin as inner and outer layers sealing at least one layer of a ~~gas-barrier resin~~ ~~or a~~ recycled polyester resin as an intermediate layer, said intermediate layer running continuously through the body and entire bottom portion,

wherein a time is not shorter than 300 seconds before a calorific value of isothermal crystallization of said ~~layer~~ inner and outer layers of the ethylene terephthalate unit-containing polyester resin at 210°C reaches a maximum value, which method comprises feeding a molten polyester resin having an inherent viscosity at the time of melt-extrusion of not smaller than 0.72 dL/g to a compression-forming machine and compression-forming.

7. (withdrawn): A method of producing a preform according to claim 6, wherein the temperature of melt-extruding the molten polyester resin is in a range of $T_m + 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $T_m + 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ with the melting point (T_m) of the polyester resin as a reference.

8. (withdrawn): A method of producing a preform according to claim 6, wherein a drop of the inherent viscosity at the time of melt-extrusion from the inherent viscosity of when the polyester resin to be used is thrown into the extruder is not larger than 10%.

9. (canceled).

10. (previously presented): A preform according to claim 1, wherein the melt-extruded molten resin mass remains in a molten state until it is subjected to the compression-forming.

11. (previously presented): A method of producing a preform according to claim 6, wherein the melt-extruded molten resin mass remains in a molten state until it is subjected to the compression-forming.

12. (previously presented): A preform according to claim 10, wherein said melt-extruded molten resin mass is a melt-extruded composite molten resin mass.

13. (previously presented): A method of producing a preform according to claim 11, wherein said melt-extruded molten resin mass is a melt-extruded composite molten resin mass.